

## Opportunities and Threats, week 4:

### Local Mission -part 2

August 30th, 2020 by Kasey Crawford

**Today's Passages: Hebrews 10:39, Matthew 9:35-10:15, Rev. 12:11**

We are in the midst of a cultural earthquake...

**But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. Hebrews 10:39**

Rather than shrink back, this is a time to rise up, to dig in to the goodness of God and then advance the Kingdom of God (in us and through us) to our families, our city, our state and nation.

Today's Threat: "Lower the sails." Give up on all that "mission" stuff for a while.

Today's Opportunity: God's mission never stops!

#### 4 Core Truths to believe about mission (and put into practice)

1. The (Kingdom) Harvest is Plentiful!

**Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;<sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38**

2. God will set up divine appointments with People of Peace in your sphere of influence, if you are willing.

**And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.<sup>14</sup> And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. Matthew 10:13-14**

3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and available for God for to show you new opportunities when others have closed. **(Matthew 10:1-15)**

Their ministry wasn't one dimensional. Their "tool belt" was full, so they adapted to represent the Kingdom in the way the present situation required.

4. Especially in times of crisis, God's mission will require \_\_\_\_\_. **(Matthew 10:1-15)**

The disciples were subject to cold, to hunger, to danger, to ridicule and rejection; even to sacrifice their \_\_\_\_\_ and more.

For example, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, as 2 plagues ravaged Europe, most typical "mission" methods were shut down. But the church adapted; and sacrificed. While most people fled the cities to get away from the infected, many Christians \_\_\_\_\_ and cared for their family, friends and even "pagan" neighbors. Some died.

As a result of this sacrificial compassion, the ratio of Christians to non-Christians in the Roman Empire grew from 1 in 250, to 1 in \_\_\_\_\_.

Being available, adaptable and willing to sacrificially serve with compassion, during a time of crisis, changed neighbors, changed cities, and changed an \_\_\_\_\_; which changed the course of history.

#### Responding to God...

If some opportunities for mission have shut down, what other ones have opened? Are you being adaptable to make the most of them?

Where might God be calling you to sacrificially serve?

Answers: adaptable, sacrifice, reputation, stayed, 4, empire